25. OCCURRENCE OF THE FRESHWATER MEDUSAE, *LIMNOCNIDA INDICA* ANNANDALE, IN THUNGA RIVER NEAR SHIMOGA TOWN, MYSORE STATE

A survey of the fisheries, between Thunga anicut and Shimoga town (a distance of 7 miles) was being conducted in the month of March, 1954. On March 26th, 1954, a pool in Thunga River near Arkere which is 3 miles from Shimoga town was seen to contain swarms of freshwater medusae. This being significant, series of observations were made in the pool from 26th March 1954 to 7th June 1954.

The pool has a sandy bed with rocks on one side and is 150 ft. long, 50 ft. wide and 6½ ft. deep, there was a small flow of water from the main stream at one end and a little overflow at the opposite end. The water in the pool was still and had a clarity of 2 ft., the colour of the water was generally light green. There was no aquatic vegetation except for a few submerged shrubs. Small fishes like *Rasbora*, *Danio*, *Barilius*, *Ambassis* and *Chela* were found in the pool. The water temperature was observed from March to June, 1954 and it ranged from 29.0°C. to 34.0°C. The medusae were visible at the surface on days when the water temperature was 30.0°C. and below. On hotter days, the medusae were mostly at the bottom.

Again on 25th Feb. 1955, the medusae reappeared in the same pool after a lapse of seven months.

H. S. Rao (1932)[1] mentions his unsuccessful attempt to locate freshwater medusae in Thunga and Bhadra rivers and P. A. Ramakrishna (1950)[2] while recording the occurrence of freshwater medusae in the Sharavathi river, raises a point about the occurrence of the medusae in the same pool year after year. The occurrence of the freshwater medusae in Thunga River and their recurring appearance in one and same pool in successive years is significant. The medusae are washed away with the floods and die, while the eggs, they have left behind in the pools develop and reappear as medusae in the subsequent season.

FISHERIES SECTION,
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26. A NEW WEED FOR CEYLON

On my way back from Djakarta I stopped at Colombo for a few hours, and noticed a conspicuous white flower scattered over the grassy area in front of the Colombo Club and the Galle Face Hotel. I do not remember seeing the plant when I was last in Colombo 25 years ago, and it turns out to be *Gomphrena celosioides* Mart. This species is a native of S. Brazil and Argentina; it has been recorded from Africa, India (Dehra Dun and Madras), Malaysia, and Australia as an introduced weed. It is the *G. decumbens* of Gamble's Flora of Madras. Probably it will be found elsewhere in Tropical Asia. The specimen is in the herbarium of the British Museum (Natural History).

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[1] Rao, H. S. (1932): *JBNHS*, **36**, (1); 210-217.
[2] Ramakrishna, P. A., *et al*. (1950): *JBNHS*, **49**, (2), 318-319.

A. H. G. ALSTON

[*Gomphrena celosioides* is a plant of recent introduction into India, but in a short time it has managed to spread very widely almost all over the country. We have seen it in various parts of Bombay and Saurashtra, usually along the main roads or on railway lines.—EDS.]

27. A NOTE ON THE FLORA OF MIRZAPUR (U.P.)

Hooker, Duthie, Raizada and Bor studied the flora of Uttar Pradesh in general, but it appears that the Mirzapur district which has a large hilly area, a continuation of the Vindhyan Range, bearing forest of all classes, has not been intensively botanized.

Winds, rain and man play an important role in the distribution of plants to long distances, so that, Mirzapur being surrounded by Bihar in the east, Madhya Pradesh in the south, and Vindhya Pradesh in the west, should show an admixture of the flora of these provinces with those of U.P. The author's study of the flora of this district does indicate such admixture. Many such plants have been collected which are not reported from any part of the Uttar Pradesh, even from the nearby districts of Allahabad (G. D. Srivastava, 1938) or Benares (Misra, 1944 and 1946), but they are known to occur in the neighbouring states.

The list of these plants is as follows:—

Alternanthera echinata Sm (Amarantaceae)
Athroisma laciniatum DC (Compositae)
Blumea Jacquemontii Hook. f. (Compositae)
Bulbostylis capillaris Kunth (Cyperacae)
Convolvulus microphllus Sieb (Convolvulaceae)
**Dimeria connivens* Hack (Gramineae)
Dopatrium junceum Buch-Ham (Scrophulariaceae)
Eragrostis rupestris Steud (Gramineae)
Gomphrena celosioides Mart. (Amarantaceae)
Lepidagathis trinervis Nees (Acanthaceae)
Lindernia multiflora (Roxb.) Mukerjee (Scrophulariaceae)
Lindernia verbenaefolia (Colms) Pennell (Scrophulariaceae)
Luffa graveolens Roxb (Cucurbitaceae)
Microcarpaea muscosa R. Br. (Scrophulariaceae)
**Pennisetum pedicellatum* Trin (Gramineae)
**Pseudoraphis aspera* (Koen) Pilger (Gramineae)
Vicoa cernua Dalz (Compositae)

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